



December 4, 2002

TENNESSEE BULLETIN NO. 180-1-4

SUBJECT: CPA – CONSERVATION PLANNING TECHNOLOGY

Purpose. To provide information on conservation planning certification and technology delivery.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2002.

The following is provided for informational purposes on the future of technology centered on conservation planning.

The Assistant State Conservationist (Technology) has the responsibility for conservation planning certification and technology delivery. The following is a breakdown of forthcoming items that may affect the way NRCS workload will be achieved.

The national conservation planning policy has been deployed to states. NRCS Tennessee is in the process of completing the state supplement to the General Manual policy, which should be released in August 2001.

A series of training courses has been developed and released by the National Employee Development Center (NEDC). These courses are part of the planning certification required to be completed on line by all conservation planners in the state. Training will be documented in Employee Training Plans. Information and directions will be provided at a later date.

The Comprehensive Nutrient and Pest Management section of conservation planning has been developed. Training is scheduled for August 14-16, 2001, in Shelbyville, Tennessee. A cadre of planners has been selected to begin certification in this area.

At the state level, the Ecological Sciences and Technology Staff is working to complete the land use planning course. This training will be used to write plans in order to implement NRCS mandated programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), PL-566, and CO-01 activities. It is anticipated this certification training will begin early in fiscal year 2002.

A Conservation Policy Review Board will be appointed to help identify inconsistencies and assure quality is incorporated in all aspects of planning activities.

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DIST: O

Sections I and II of the Field Office Technical Guide have been completed and will be posted on the NRCS Tennessee web page shortly. Work has also begun on Sections III and IV.

Templates will be standardized and built into Customer Toolkit on a site-specific basis. The FOTG Committee will complete additional parts of Section III. Section IV contains a limited amount of conservation practice standards on the web page for your use. The process for review of draft conservation practice standards is on the NRCS Tennessee web site. You are encouraged to review and make comments to the author of the draft standards.

There is some discussion of purchase of computers at the national level. The indications are that at least one Common Computer Environment (CCE) will be purchased for each field office not currently operating on the new platform. Additional information regarding this purchase is expected by the end of August.

“Let’s work smarter, not harder.”

/s/

JAMES W. FORD
State Conservationist